

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-02 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-11 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 AGRE-00 /108 W
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P 260003Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7812

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, US, MX, UNEP
SUBJECT: DESERTIFICATION

REF: MEXICO 1144

1. FOLLOWING UP ON DISCUSSIONS REPORTED REFTEL, WE CALLED EDGARDO FLORES RIVAS AT FONSEC TO ASCERTAIN FURTHER MEXICAN THINKING ON SUBJECT OF U.S.-MEXICO BILATERAL MEETING AS IT MAY HAVE EVOLVED AT LAST WEEK'S MEXICAN INTER-AGENCY MEETING.

2. FLORES INDICATED THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT TO MEET WITH US. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO FAVOR A SITE OUTSIDE OF MEXICO CITY, BUT NOT TOO FAR AWAY, LARGELY SO THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS COULD CONCENTRATE THEIR FULL ATTENTION TO THE MEETING.

3. FLORES TOLD US THAT THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE (WHICH WE GATHER IS RATHER LARGE) WILL MEET AGAIN ON JAN 30 SPECIFICALLY TO CONSIDER THE AGENDA FOR THE BILATERAL MEETING. HE PROMISED TO LET US KNOW THE RESULTS OF THAT MEETING SOON THEREAFTER. AS YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT.
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MENT ON SPECIFIC DATES TO PROPOSE TO US.

4. FYI: FLORES PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL VIEWS WHICH HE HASTENED TO POINT OUT MIGHT WELL NOT TURN OUT TO BE THOSE OF THE FULL COMMITTEE. HE FEELS THAT THE US-MEXICO MEETING SHOULD DEVOTE ITS ATTENTION TO BILATERAL COOPERATION (AS OPPOSED TO DEVOTING MUCH TIME TO THE UP-

COMING UNEP REGIONAL MEETINGS). HE NOTED THAT MEXICO IS TRYING TO APPLY THE RESULTS OF THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NATIONAL PLAN. ONCE THAT PLAN HAS BEEN AGREED TO, MEXICO COULD SOLICIT US COOPERATION IN APPROPRIATE AREAS. (THIS COULD BE A LENGTHY PROCESS AND SUGGEST A DELAY IN THE TIMING OF THE BILATERAL MEETING BEYOND MARCH, HOWEVER.) WE NOTED THAT, WHILE THAT WAS ONE

APPROACH, ANOTHER WOULD BE TO HOLD THE US-MEXICO MEETING PRIOR TO FINALIZATION OF THE MEXICAN PLAN SO THAT THE MEXICANS COULD BENEFIT FROM DISCUSSIONS AT SUCH A MEETING.

5. IN ANY CASE, FLORES ENVISIONS THE BILATERAL MEETING AS REVIEWING ALL PERTINENT MEXICAN AND US PROGRAMS, WITH A VIEW TOWARD IDENTIFYING PROMISING AREAS FOR INCREASED MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COLLABORATION. FLORES WOULD WELCOME ANY US IDEAS FOR THE MEETING AGENDA. LUCEY

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